

IN PROSPEROUS CONDITION.

The Annual Examination of the Affairs of the National Benefit Association Points to New Opportunities for Young People. The Social Side.

The annual meeting of the National Benefit Association which convened in this city a few days ago has awakened widespread interest among the members over the country; the large number of promising inquiries lead one to believe that this will be a record-breaking year.

The business sessions were held daily at the Capital Savings Bank Building, 609 F street, which is the Home Office and depository of the Association. A public meeting was held at Shiloh Baptist church on Thursday night at which time the public was well informed as to the workings and progress of the Association.

At the business session, devotional exercises were conducted by the Vice-president, Rev. J. Anderson Taylor, prayer by the Treasurer, Dr. A. J. Gwathney. The President, Dr. William K. Scott presided, and stated among other things in his opening remarks that "representatives are present from fifteen Assemblies including New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. We have passed the first milestone and the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer will show that we have closed a successful year; and the National Benefit Association is indelibly written upon the pages of history."

The first day's session was chiefly devoted to routine work. There was one notable exception however, which is of interest to the public. Numerous requests were received from different sections of the country to add a secret department to the beneficiary department of the Association. The advisability of such a department was considered at length and left to the discretion of the Directors.

A glance at the Secretary and Treasurer's reports disclose the fact that this organization has paid out more than \$2,500 in benefits and running expenses the first year. A total of \$6,000 worth of business has been transacted. The Association has sustained itself; and after meeting all demands has to its credit in bank \$747.71 and not one dollar of the stockholders' money has been touched; thus it will be seen that a tight grip has been kept on the Association's purse strings. On February 1, 1899 only five members were on roll, at present there are 1,327.



REV. J. W. SMITH,
Editor of The Star of Zion and a Popular Candidate for Bishop in The
A. M. E. Zion Church.

EDITOR J. W. SMITH, D. D.

A Prominent Candidate for Bishop in the A. M. E. Zion Church. A Gracful but Fearless and Courageous Writer—His Career.

We take pleasure in presenting to the readers of The Colored American the picture and sketch of that fiery religious writer and editor of the Star of Zion, the official organ of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, published at Charlotte, N. C. Rev. John Wesley Smith, D. D.

He is one of the most talked-of men today in religious circles because he is one of the leading—if not the leading—candidate pushed by a host of friends for the bishopric in his great denomination. It is a debatable question as to which is the strongest—he or Dr. John W. Alston, of Montgomery, Alabama—and since it is a foregone conclusion that the General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church now in session in this city will elect more bishops, the index fingers seem to point with certainty to the election of these two able divines.

Dr. J. W. Smith is very popular in and out of his denomination because he has those qualities that win. He is kind, genial, good-natured, unassuming and full of wit. He is so pleasant, smiling and joky when one meets him that it is hard to believe he is the same J. W. Smith who writes such thoughtful, witty, sarcastic, caustic, clear-cut editorials which appear weekly in the Star of Zion. It is only when he is in a controversy and aroused that he steps behind a hot pen and makes the tiger turn tail and run for its life. He has the courage of his convictions, and when he feels that a thing should be said, he says it.

In a newspaper controversy he is certainly at home. He never seeks one and he never runs away from one. He came into national prominence in 1892 when he made a startling and unanswerable onslaught upon "The Basis, Terms and Proffer of Organic Union" framed in the Metropolitan A. M. E. church in this city by the joint council of Bishops of the A. M. E. and A. M. E. Zion denomination. His attacks caused him to be shelled by some of the Bishops, leading divines and the chief organs of these two powerful Churches, but he bravely stood his ground, storming all who entered the arena of controversy, placing them hors de combat, until the question was either killed or side-tracked for years to

The report of S. W. Rutherford, Business Manager, shows that one year ago only three regular employees were on roll, now there are twenty-six, besides there are more than thirty special canvassers who give a good portion of their time.

The following officers were re-elected for the ensuing year: William K. Scott, M. D., President; Rev. J. Anderson Taylor, Vice-president; Samuel Rutherford, Secretary and General Manager; Susie P. Robb, Assistant Secretary; Andrew J. Gwathney, D. D. S., Treasurer; Robert W. Brown, M. D., Medical Director; Lewis Biggers, General Northern Agent; John H. Braxton, General Southern Agent. Board of Directors: Miles B. Jones, Richmond, Va.; H. Howard Blanks, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William B. Monroe, Roselle, N. J.; Lewis Biggers, Newark, N. J.; Robert W. Brown, Washington, D. C.; Andrew J. Gwathney, Washington, D. C.; Susie P. Robb, Washington, D. C.; William K. Scott, Anacostia, D. C.; J. Anderson Taylor, Washington, D. C.

(Continued on fifth page.)

The Waiter's Brotherhood.

The Waiter's Brotherhood of the District of Columbia is a new, but one of the strong young organization of this city. Its purpose, as its name indicates, is to bring together and harmonize the large number of men engaged in hotel work. Its officers are President, Mr. C. T. Moore of the Senate Restaurant; Vice President Mr. George Hill of the Chevy Chase club; Secretary, Mr. Earnest Platt of Cairo Flat; Assistant Secretary, Mr. William Swann, caterer, Treasurer, Mr. William Queen. The Brotherhood holds weekly meetings in the third floor parlors at Gaskins and Gaines, 320 8th street, northwest, every Wednesday evening. Owing to the occupation of the members the meeting is called at 9:30 when a large number are always in attendance, and lively discussions are always in order and the members usually wind up with a menu of some kind. The membership is composed largely of young men who are engaged in the hotel profession and visitors who have had the pleasure of attending these meetings find it a pleasant place for rest and recreation.

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